

Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trappers Assoc.
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February 11th, 2025

Object: Letter of support for the Genome Canada project targeting Arctic char
Project title: *FISHES – Fostering Indigenous Small-scale fisheries for Health, Economy, and food Security*

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Board of Directors of Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Association is writing to express its support for the Genome Canada project *FISHES – Fostering Indigenous Small-scale fisheries for Health, Economy, and food Security* and for its recent application for a License to Fish for Scientific Purposes (LFSP).

The goal of this project in our community is to 1) support the development of genomic-derived scientific tools used to foster sustainable management practices of commercial and subsistence fisheries, 2) support harvest biomonitoring, economic analyses and workshops that will help business development of commercial and subsistence fisheries for Gjoa Haven and 3) train local harvesters and youth on scientific sampling, economic analysis and mapping tools to document local and scientific knowledge. We fully support these objectives and see this project as a significant opportunity to advance our goal of developing our fishery resources while protecting our harvest areas for the benefit of our community.

We have been in ongoing communication with project leaders Stephan Schott and Jean-Sébastien Moore regarding the opportunities presented by this project. We are in full support of Arctic char fish stock sampling. These sampling efforts will also support harvesters who collect these samples and help establish a baseline of fishery resources in our area. The locations identified in the license application were discussed with us and have been recognized as areas for the development of fisheries in our community. We appreciate the collaborative approach of this project and look forward to its positive impacts on our fisheries and overall food security.

We strongly encourage the approval of the License to Fish for Scientific Purposes for this project and look forward to working together to support sustainable fisheries development in Gjoa Haven.

Sincerely,



Anthony Anguttitauruq, Manager